

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

December 10, 2020

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

Issue XCX.7



Photo Courtesy of Drake Kalinowski '23

Amphibians, and Mammals, and Birds—Oh My!: Biology Research at H-SC

DRAKE KALINOWSKI '23
STAFF WRITER

A number of perceptive individuals around campus may have noticed a few interesting occurrences over the course of the ten-week term. Bird feeders popping up outside of Bortz Library and Gilmner Hall, odd sheets of metal on the Wilson Trail, and maybe some biology students up curiously early.

It should be no surprise that the Biology department was hard at work during the ten-week session, going on multiple trips into the great outdoors and exploring much of the beauty Virginia and our campus have to offer.

The students of Biology 349 have taken their exploits from the classroom and into the outdoors, studying a selection of Virginia's native wildlife. In order to study these fantastic creatures, the Biology department em-

Photo Courtesy of Drake Kalinowski '23



ploys a number of different methods and means.

Metal Artificial Cover Objects (ACOs) are laid down to provide the cover animals often seek, and when pulled up, simulate pulling up a large rock of sorts. This allows the students to check for traces of animals that may be living under the ACOs, and possibly even find an animal as the ACO is pulled up. These were checked weekly and posed no danger to any animals who sheltered under them.

Within Lake Chalgrove, crab-pot traps were put into the water to allow the biology students to capture and study turtles up close. To the surprise of Dr. Rachel Goodman, who teaches the course, and performed similar trapping techniques on turtles around campus back in 2010, some of the turtles caught during these experiments still had markings left on them from ten years ago. During our conversation, Goodman mentioned that the way these turtles were marked involved placing a simple file mark on a scute.

Scutes are bony exterior plates some animals possess, and in the case of turtles, these plates are what make up their shells. Making file marks does not hurt the turtle, but does provide a method of telling which turtles have been caught before.

Most of the turtles seen and caught around Lake Chalgrove were

stinkpots, also known as common musk turtles. Biology students arrived at either 7:30 A.M. or 7:00 P.M. to catch turtles.

Spreading out their time like this ensured that every student got a chance to catch a turtle, and it prevented the class from breaking COVID social distancing rules. But reptiles and amphibians were not the only animals studied in Biology 349.

The bird feed-

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Photo Courtesy of Drake Kalinowski '23

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Seek the Vision: OEI Hosts Actor T.C. Carson

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, November 9th, the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) hosted artist TC Carson to give a talk over Zoom. Carson is a famous jazz vocalist, actor, and voice-over artist; his most recognized performance is his role as Kyle Barker in the show *Living Single*. He has been nominated for two NAACP Image Awards for "Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series."

If those do not ring a bell for you, you may also recognize some of his voiceover work. Carson was the voice of Kratos in the video games *God of War 2* and *3*. Those were TC Carson's hardest roles due to how taxing they were on his body. As Kratos, he had to use his entire body to achieve the vocal quality needed to bring the character to life. He also voiced Mace Windu in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*.

Carson is an extremely talented individual who has used his platform to spread positivity as well as awareness of the issues that face the black community. His drive and passion are definitely his most distinct qualities. As an actor myself, it was truly a humbling experience getting to talk to him and learn more about him.

TC Carson grew up in Chicago, Illinois. His fascination with singing and theater started when

studied Architecture and Interior Design.

It was not until after college that he truly started pursuing his career of music and acting. He still sees architecture as his art, and is actually working on a project to build a jazz club in Atlanta. Carson was able to take the foundations of his passion and use it to build an amazing career.

In the discussion with Carson, he made a lot of great points that encouraged unity and courage. As a black artist, he believes it is important to use his platform and talent to raise awareness toward black issues and to use his artistry to tell black stories from a black point of view.

With the current climate we are in with social justice and civil unrest, Carson believes that this time is the best time for black artists. "There is an audience for our stories. Black artists understand the struggle so we are equipped to rise." Despite these trying times for Black Americans, there is still a light.

The time when we feel silenced is the best time for us to be heard. Carson says he does this by promoting and taking care of his community. He surrounds himself with those that look like him and they tackle the situations at hand.

Creating this kind of entertainment makes a safe space for minorities while also incorporating a layer of understanding for those who are not educated or who are

As American citizens we hold the power to change the narrative and use our passions to push us into making the world a better place.

he participated in the Title VI programs at his local school. He began singing in 5th grade and was hooked after getting a positive reaction from a crowd after singing *Aquarius*. When he went to college however, he

against the fight for equality. Carson goes on to say that, "we have the power." As American citizens we hold the power to change the narrative and use our passions to push us into making the world a better place.

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“THE SECOND PAGE”

Poet’s Corner:
An ode to the keg

Kegs, kegs,
You sit on ice
Your cold or warm flow
I will take it ether way
my love for you will only grow
Perfect during the day
Or the night
Why are you kept from me?
Hand pumped
Polished shiny
Leaving more than a few boys slumped
They’re dangerous they will say
President Stimpert, his signature required
That day may come when I’m old and gray
Safer than liquor, our weary livers tired
Glass banned
Liquor no more
So sick of what I drink canned
A keg and red cups would please me to my core
A slight tinge of red policy, its practices banned
Sharing is what I adore
Hidden in plain sight
Our habits causing an uproar
It’s not gentlemanly, it’s not right!
What about kegs causes NFC so much fright?

--Zac Richman ‘22



Photo Courtesy of Drake Kalinowski '23

ers around campus are also part of Goodman’s class. Other than providing some easy nourishment for local wildlife, the bird feeders also gave students the chance to get comfortable using their binoculars to track both moving and still birds. These skills were important when the class went on birding trips on Briery Creek, Wilks Lake, and Wilks Creek. Students spread out in kayaks on the water to look for and identify birds. The distant nature of kayaking and bird watching kept students safe while simultaneously providing a relaxing break from the academic rigor of the ten-week session. Bird watching is easy enough, but the most difficult part of the course was yet to come, as the mammals that live on and around campus tend to be rather skittish and easily frightened. Certain areas of the Wilson Trail played host to a variety of trail cams, or camera traps. Due to the nature of the classes over the ten-week session, it was difficult to safely trap mammals that could potentially have rabies, or small mammals who could die before the traps were checked. Camera traps allowed the students to observe and catalog animals seen in the woods around the trail without being in danger themselves or putting the animals at risk. The camera traps were motion activated, but only took photos every fifteen seconds, which allowed the students to determine if one animal is simply hovering in front of a camera, or if a large group was moving past. The cameras placed in the pine dominated forests captured several common mammal species: squirrel, deer, and a few of the most curious creatures that roam our campus: ROTC cadets. The lecture part of the course is taking place during our current four-week session, where the theory and classroom work of the class is done. Overall, it is quite clear that the work being done around Hampden-Sydney’s campus is integral for training the next generation of wildlife biologists, and critical to understanding just how unique a place Hampden-Sydney truly is.



Photo Courtesy of Drake Kalinowski '23

Join the team.



Write for *The Tiger*.
Contact
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The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

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We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

NEWS

From Scenic Drive to Cannonball Run: Students and Faculty Review the 10-4 Schedule

BRENNAN VAUGHT '21
STAFF WRITER

It is no secret that the change from our normal 15-week semester is unknown territory for the College. This semester was broken up into a 10-week stroll and a 4-week sprint. I sent some students and faculty a five-part questionnaire about the 10- and 4-week sessions and gathered their responses to generate an overview of how the population felt about the schedule. The questions I asked were as follows: 1) Was the 10-week session more or less stress-

ful than the normal 15-week? 2) How did the amount of work compare? 3) How were grades impacted, if in any way in this 10-week session? 4) What did you like/dislike about the 10-week? and 5) Do you think the 10-4 system could be put into operation for years to come? Holistically, the general feel from the responses was that the 10-week session, while shorter than the 15, was less stressful due to the fact that the students were taking fewer classes at one time than normal semester. Normally, students have a load of 5 classes at time.

From the faculty side, there appeared to be an increase in stress and workload since a lot more time had to go into class preparation and planning. One example of this was when a professor had to decide what was truly important in their class and scheduled the semester around those topics. Moreover, it appeared that the amount of work professors had to do was the same, but with the compressed schedule it felt like more work; the same could be said for the students, with most of them saying that their workload was lessened but

the pace of in-class material made up for the lack of work outside of class. In regard to grades, there was not a significant change either way, higher or lower. From the professors' reviews, it appeared that they were more understanding of students that struggled not only with the schedule but having to go in and out of quarantine, plus having some online classes and some in person. For the Freshmen who were not with us last semester, all the classes were online last semester, so at least there was some consistency in that re-



Photo Courtesy of Michael Van Citters '22

Meet H-SC's New Student Body Officials

ZAC RICHMAN '22
STAFF WRITER

As the first semester comes to a close and new faces on campus become new friends, it is important to know who is representing us students especially in these times where student representation is more important than ever. Staying up to date with representatives new and old is important to make sure your voice is

the most reasonable time to plan ahead." When asked about what he believes the purpose of the College Activities council is, Zorko replied that to him, "CAC is a group of students that work at the very center of the students on campus and create events that everybody can attend these events are there to make everybody feel welcome on campus." CAC is an extremely useful

Staying up to date with representatives new and old is important to make sure your voice is heard and your ideas communicated to people who can enact change.

heard and your ideas communicated to people who can enact change. Alex Zorko '22 is serving his third year with College Activities Council (CAC) and won the CAC Member of the year award in the spring. When asked about possible events this year, Zorko had this to say: "This year's interesting because we're limited by CDC and school guidelines. Usually I would say either homecoming or Greek week but we don't know what is going to happen. I'm not sure of how big an event we can plan with the restrictions that are in place. We are planning from month to month because it seems like

club on campus that puts on many exciting events in a normal year and helps to create an atmosphere that's entertaining and fun for students, like paying for Turnpike Troubadours during Greek Week 2019 or the golf simulator in Brown Student Center. Ben Rose, Class of '23 is serving his first term on the honor court this year. He said, "I'm a new member of the honor court. As a member of the honor court I sit on cases pertaining to honor code violations and some student conduct violations. I don't have any big plans to change the school

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Force of Nature: Fine Arts Hosts Ann

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

On October 26th, John's Auditorium welcomed another show by the Firehouse Theatre Ann. This "one-woman" show, featuring Jacqueline Jones, focuses on the life of Ann Richards and her experience as the first female Governor of Texas. The first act is basically a monologue centered around Ann Richards' keynote address. The second act mostly takes place in Ann Richards' office. There, she describes what she went through as the Governor of Texas. This play was difficult for me to understand because I did not know much about Ann Richards before watching the play. Despite my lack of knowledge, I was still able to enjoy this show. It was an impressive display of endurance and talent. The set was simple; a podium on stage right, a desk on center stage, and a chair on stage left. Each of these props and set-pieces represented a different place and time in the life of Ann Richards. The experience felt very personal because the actress would talk directly to the audience. The house lights were dimmed but not completely turned off, allowing the actress to see and engage with the audience.



Photo Courtesy of Michael Harris '22

It was definitely an entertaining performance that I enjoyed being a part of. Talking to Jones was a great experience. Jones, who has a wide array of different experiences in theatre, pulled off a great performance. One thing that definitely stood out was her accent and how it was pretty close to how the real Ann Richards sounds. Erica Hughes, Jones's dialect coach, played a big part in helping Jones get her accent as accurate as possible. In an interview, Jones explained the outside work she had done to prepare her voice

for the production, "I think I listened to the Keynote address at least 100 times. Understanding how she talks was the most important part for me." Jones took advantage of her resources to not just better understand her character's voice, but the character as a whole. Along with Ann Richards' accent comes a spunky personality. She is definitely the definition of a strong southern woman. Jones was able to embody this in her acting and made you believe she was truly Ann Richards on the stage. Despite this play

being two acts, it was not split into scenes, making each act a long monologue. Monologue-heavy plays can make memorizing one's lines very hard. To deal with this, Jones had an interesting strategy. "Finding connections within the script is what helped me. The best connections are the silly ones. The sillier the connection the easier it is to memorize." Jones would read her script with a partner and they would both talk about the script, searching for any connection they could make any con-

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OPINION

Sickening: When Will the COVID-19 Hypocrisy End?

PATRICK STRITE '24
STAFF WRITER

There comes a point to every continuation of hypocrisy by the governing body at which the people say enough is enough. There comes a point at which the “rules

public while elected officials continue their grandiose and hypocritical behavior, the point at which the public says enough is growing ever closer. Gavin Newsom has continued to push people to obey California’s COVID-19 restric-

A picture recently came out of Gavin Newsom attending a birthday dinner at an upscale restaurant. In the picture Newsom is seated inside in close quarters with a large group that is maskless. Newsom is not alone, however. Lori Lightfoot has been an adamant enforcer of the same policies of Newsom. She even castigated those who dared to ponder the idea of having a normal Thanksgiving dinner. She claimed that these people were causing great harm to the general welfare of her city.

This, of course, did not stop her from attending a Biden celebration rally where she proceeded to shout into a megaphone without a mask while surrounded by thousands of individuals.

She defended herself saying that the people would have been there whether she attended or not. Lightfoot also was caught going to the hairstylist. She defended this action by claiming it was important because she is on national media.

Dianne Feinstein is no better either. She too was photographed walking through an airport completely maskless. She was even caught on videotape walking the halls of congress without a mask on too. Nancy Pelosi was also caught going to the hairstylist — maskless of course. This was done despite her continued praise



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Letter from the Editor

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS '22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since the release of the last issue of *The Tiger*, many readers have asked me what I thought both about James Garrison’s editorial on proofreading at Hampden-Sydney and about the letters to the editor published in response to it.

In the editorial, Garrison claims that many of the emails sent to the entire student body are poorly proofread and that faculty, staff, and student leaders should be held to the same grammatical standard to which professors ostensibly hold their students. He proceeds to substantiate his claim by giving examples of such errors from real campus-wide emails.

The problem—the rhetorical misstep—was that Garrison gave several anonymous examples of errors and then called out the Office of Equity and Inclusion by name. The problem, in other words, was a noticeable asymmetry between the criticism levelled at one office and the criticism levelled at everyone else. The Office of Equity and Inclusion, it seems, was targeted unfairly.

What Garrison said was insensitive. One professor put it succinctly when he said that Garrison should have called out everyone by name or called out *no* one by name. Just as importantly, I, the editor in charge of selecting content for *The Tiger*, should have been more diligent in identifying how the language used in the editorial had the potential to do harm.

Allowing the article to be published as such was a mistake—and it was

my mistake. What appeared to be an attack on the Office of Equity and Inclusion upset a lot of people; and to those whom it offended I apologize.

In the weeks since the article was published, I have had the chance to reflect both on Garrison’s article and on the letters to the editor sent in response to it. And I think that although the response letters have not put the issue to rest, they *have* shone light on a different problem at Hampden-Sydney: the problem of how we engage one another.

This problem is one that was on full display in the last issue of *The Tiger*. For comparable to the asymmetry between Garrison’s criticisms was an asymmetry between the points made in his editorial and the points engaged with in the letters to the editor, particularly those sent in by Drs. Euteneuer and Nace.

What I think of the letters is simple, and it is that they did not actually engage with Garrison’s editorial but rather with a plausible yet easily-assailable reconstruction of his points and, more importantly, his motives. In fact, the letters submitted under the guise of engaging with Garrison’s article were so fraught with argumentative fallacies aimed at undermining the editorial that there is not much for me to comment on *but* the fallacies.

Take, for example, the strawman fallacy. For those unfamiliar with informal fallacies, a strawman is a form of argument that gives the impression of having refuted an opponent’s point while never in fact

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for thee, but not me” attitudes come to a halt. People eventually cannot stand being forced to make sacrifices that the elites cannot make themselves.

As the strangulations of coronavirus precautions in America continue to be throttled down upon the general

tions. He has been putting limits on the amount of people allowed to gather at one time, implementing a statewide curfew, mandatory mask policies, and a bevy of other protocols.

There’s only one problem—Gavin Newsom can’t follow his own rules.



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

State Elections 2020: A Liberal Victory?

DR. BYRON CARSON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Congratulations to the people of Arizona, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, and South Dakota for their recent votes to legalize or decriminalize marijuana.

But don’t break out the pipes just yet; Mississippi merely legalized medical marijuana. Hey, it’s a start! But what a start, especially for Mississippi. And look at South Dakota; they doubled down by legalizing marijuana and medical marijuana. Don’t mess with *those* voters.

If you’re looking for more drugs, the people of Washington, DC and Oregon are here for you. People in DC decriminalizedentheogens, an act that lowers the priority of

the non-commercial cultivation, distribution, possession, and consumption ofentheogenic plants and fungi—yes, think of peyote and magic mushrooms—as a policing concern.

Sweet, dear Oregonians. They could only manage to legalize psilocybins. DC and Oregon trips might be more common.

Ok, enough of drugs; they are bad mmm’kay. But the people of Arizona, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, South Dakota, DC, and Oregon believe otherwise.

Props to the people of California for nixing the initiative to allow rent control on older residential properties. And reverence for the people of Nevada who now define marriage as between couples regardless of

gender; and for refusing to force a religious organization to sanctify marriage.

And don’t forget the wonderful people of Utah,

in Nebraska)—voted to cap interest rates on payday lenders.

Voluntary exchange is the decoder ring you might be looking for at

Many of us might still find drugs “icky”, but—and here’s a novel idea—keep it to yourself . . .

who established a constitutional right to hunt and fish.

Now, for shame...(ring bell)... shame! Dishonor to the people of Florida and Nebraska for their successful initiatives. Floridians decided it was a good idea to raise the minimum wage. And then there are the people of Nebraska who—in their corn- and beef-fed wisdom (there’s a lot of corn and beef

this point. That is, I praise the former initiatives and scorn the latter because of their respect or lack of respect for voluntary exchange.

Many of us might still find drugs “icky”, but—and here’s a novel idea—keep it to yourself; let other people light up and trip ‘till they’re tired. Voluntary exchange makes both parties

Continue reading on page 5

SPORTS

What To Watch For in the NBA Off-Season

JONAH POPP '21
OPINION EDITOR

As the start of the new season approaches, teams all over the NBA are making bold moves in this shortened offseason. While some organizations, such as the 76ers, have managed to make productive moves in the past few days, other organization, such as the Hornets, have made questionable decisions re-

garding their free agent signings. Maybe I'm crazy for thinking that an injury-prone Gordon Hayward paired with a rookie LaMelo Ball will not make the Hornets into a playoff-caliber team, but most can at least agree that Gordon Hayward has no business making thirty million dollars per year. As this off-season progresses, keep an eye on the Lakers as they build their

team up for a repeat championship. As of right now, they've lost Dwight Howard and Danny Green to the 76ers (Danny Green was traded first to OKC and then to the 76ers), but they've gained Dennis Schröder and Montrezl Harrell, two players who could provide valuable depth to their roster. Another team that I would watch closely is the Dallas Mavericks. Their

young star, Luka Dončić, has broken all kinds of records, and he is only just about the same age as your average Hampden-Sydney student (comparatively, the RPE can't be so hard, right?). The team's front office is building around him, but thankfully he makes their job easy. Since Luka does a little bit of everything, they just need to keep him surrounded with solid play-

ers who can produce consistently. With Luka and Porzingis at the helm of their team, they look poised to be a deadly threat in the West for the next few years. The Portland Trail Blazers have also made some interesting moves. Their acquisition of Robert Covington might solidify them as a top-tier team, even though they struggled at the beginning of last season. This move, combined with the return of a healthy Nurkic, the re-signing of Melo, and what seems to be Dame in his prime makes them a deadly offensive threat. Thankfully, the addition of Covington will add some much-needed defense to their roster, and he will also grant them some consistent three-point shooting. Regardless of what else hap-

pens this off-season, this 2020-2021 NBA season is shaping up to be just as competitive, if not more so, than last season. Although LeBron's presence in the finals seems as inevitable as fish on Friday at the Moans, this season's championship contenders are truly up in the air. If the Clippers are able to fix Paul George's shooting woes, they could just as easily make it to the finals. If the 76ers can figure out a system that allows their stars to play to their strengths, they could take the East. If the Bucks make the right moves to build around Giannis, they could crush any competition in their way. Gone are the days of the Warriors vs. LeBron; this new era of the NBA has proven to be exciting and unpredictable at every turn.

better off; that outcome doesn't stop working for these things we call drugs. And let people make exchanges over housing according to their values, especially their willingness to pay for a unit and their willingness to offer a unit up for sale. These exchanges tend to improve the quality and availability of housing. Just ask people in Mumbai, that is, if they survived the collapse of their poorly maintained apartment building. Some of the voters in California are starting to see the picture.

As for marriage, the pattern continues, marry who you—not your father or your brother—want. Have at it, go for it! If you can convince someone else to put up with your shenanigans, they're a keeper. Tell the haters to shove it. Yes, that is the civil, honorable way to say it. At the same time, recognize voluntary exchange takes two parties, which means we

should not force a priest to condone your marriage. Again, voluntary exchange is mutually beneficial even for two dudes, three women, or any gendered combination thereof. The voters of Nevada get it. Voluntary exchanges over wildlife and natural resourc-

histories especially for poor and minority populations. Even John Locke—yes, the natural rights John Locke—knew of the consequences of capping interest rates. These policies explicitly outlaw some exchanges between willing buyers and sellers. Minimum wage laws

and the implications of voluntary exchange by describing liberalism: "The new liberal plan born in the eighteenth century came to mean the startling notion of a society consisting entirely, if ideally, of free people. No slaves at all. Equality of status and permission. No pushing around. Minimally coercive. Sweet-talking. Persuasive. Rhetorical. Voluntary. Humane. Tolerant. No racism. No Jim Crow. No voter suppression. No abusing of immigrants. No imperialism. No reign of terror over gay people. No unnecessary taxes. No imprudent collective projects. No domination of women by men. No casting couch. No beating of children. No messing with other people's stuff or persons." Let's heed their advice, praise voluntary exchange, and scorn prohibitions on exchange; and people will make the world a better place.

Minimum wage legislation and capping interest rates have long, unfortunate histories especially for poor and minority populations.

es are now more likely in Utah because of explicit property rights. Think of all the incentives that now exist, more than before, to engage in conservation because of such property rights. Teddy Roosevelt—and your hunting buddies—should be thrilled. Now for the rejection of voluntary exchange in Florida and Nebraska: what a shame. Minimum wage legislation and capping interest rates have long, unfortunate

outlaw exchanges between individuals who are willing to offer their labor services and individuals who are willing to pay for labor, where the agreed upon wage falls below the threshold. Capping interest rates outlaw similar exchanges; substitute lending, borrowing, and interest rates. I their new book *Leave Me Alone and I'll Make you Rich*, Deirdre McCloskey and Art Carden summarize this appreciation for

Hypocrisy, cont'd

for the idea of a national mask mandate. She defended herself by claiming she had been set up. The only set up of

ed through samples of data has already formed. All of this happened while the purveyors of these tragedies winned

Americans lost their livelihoods over some of these policies. Parents lost children to suicide.

course was that of the American people being taught to believe they would be held to the same standard as the people governing them. There is a word for all of this: sickening. It is sickening to watch as elites continually disregard their constituents' needs. It is sickening to listen as elites continually pontificate with platitudes and a sense of superiority. Americans lost their livelihoods over some of these policies. Parents lost children to suicide. Damage that can't be detect-

and dined themselves into a hypocrisy induced coma. Nothing will change. Business owners will continue to be dragged out in handcuffs for the grave sin of providing for their families while those who make the law will continue to be above it. None of them will bat an eye or lose a second of sleep. They'll continue to sit around in circles at upscale restaurants while laughing and complaining about how the sauna was just a degree too hot today. Sickening.

Ann, cont'd

nections. For example, if Jones has a line containing the word fork and the next line about food, she will make the connection between fork and food to remember those lines.

Memorizing such long monologues is definitely a complicated process, but looking at the performance, Jones's work definitely paid off.

10/4 Schedule cont'd

gard. When looking at the responses for question 4, the students seemed to like two components of the 10-week: the out-of-class workload and the free time that they had to spend with their friends, work on graduate school applications, etc. From the professorial standpoint, they did not like the compressed workload with the same grading and planning, but they did value the chance to think about what was important to accomplish in their

respective courses. One professor noted that once he had taught a course multiple times, he would forget to do this "calibration," as he called it. Last, but not least, was the question about the viability of the 10-4 as a system that the College could implement for years to come. All the students I heard from were very against the idea since the 4-week requires "an insane amount of work for most students, even when taking only a sin-

gle class." To quote Scotty Bowman, "It feels like cannonball run." The professors thought much like the students, agreeing there would be no way for this to be a viable system for the College to adopt unless there was extreme rescheduling of class offerings for the 10- and 4-week sessions. That is to say that the 10-week would be reserved for higher-level or major-specific classes and labs while the 4-week would be more for introductory classes. A point of ref-

erence for these suggestions is that many institutions do a January or May term for specific classes, which means there is potential for the 10-4 to be viable, but only with careful consideration given to which classes go in which session. Overall, the consensus is very clear: Hampden-Sydney professors and students want the 15-week back. As with many things Sydney, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

THE BACK PAGE

Letter, cont'd

having addressed the point in question. Much in the way that a successful scarecrow looks like a real person, so does a successful strawman argument look like a solid argument, although it is held up only by sophistry and rhetorical flourish.

Take Nace's claim that those who "wish to forbid [the use of the word *minoritize*] are on the wrong side of linguistic history and on the wrong side of race relations as well." Good point; well-stated. But nowhere does Garrison suggest that the word *minoritize*—or any other neologism—should be *forbidden*. (For those who do not know, the word *minoritize* means

"to make a minority"—the phrase *minoritized person* differs from the term *minority* in that it emphasizes that a group has been *made into* a minority.)

Garrison made the claim that the Office of Equity and Inclusion made up a word, and that claim was untrue—patently untrue. A more apt critique of Garrison would be that he did not research his topic adequately; a quick Google search will show that although *minoritize* is not in the Oxford English Dictionary, it is a neologism that is increasingly recognized and for good reasons. Garrison (or I) could just as easily have gotten in

contact with a member of the Office of Equity and Inclusion to ask about the word. Not doing so was a mistake.

Before a professor told me what *minoritize* meant after the editorial was published, I did not know that it was a word; and I would guess that most students didn't and that most still don't. The point, though, is that Nace's critique fails to address what Garrison actually said about the word in his editorial.

Nor is the strawman the only fallacy used in the attacks on Garrison's article. The illicit appeal to authority, for example, is rife in the letters. In his piece, Euteneuer appealed to the authority of the *Bedford Handbook*, "a lot of in-depth research about errors, usage, style, and grammar," and the expertise of Dr. Joseph Williams, while Nace appealed to the authority of a style guide and the academic presses of Oxford, Columbia, Duke, and the University of Chicago, not to mention *the very field of sociolinguistics*—all without an argument for why these authorities are worth listening to. (It is especially ironic that one attacking prescriptivism relies so heavily upon arguments from authority.)

Another fallacy used uniformly across the letters was the appeal to motive, or the use of an argument that challenges an idea by question-

ing the motives of its proponent. Consider, for example, the phrase "weaponization of grammar"; this phrase appeared in both Gleason's and Nace's letter.

There is no doubt in my mind that grammar can be weaponized. In fact, since so many see grammar as a banal matter of objective communication, I imagine that it can be weaponized to great, i.e., to harmful, effect. It can be used to suppress, to delegitimize, to alienate, and to other disenfranchised groups. But to accuse someone of doing these things by exhorting the community to proofread their all-College emails is absurd.

Weaponization is the act of making something into a weapon. One does not accidentally weaponize something. Accordingly, accusing someone of weaponizing something requires attributing a motive to that person. And reading intentions into other people's actions and statements sits at the pinnacle of intellectual dishonesty.

In his article, Euteneuer claims that "Mr. Garrison's attempts to use 'standards' as a way to silence others comes across loud and clear." Euteneuer is dismissing Garrison's point by assuming that he is trying to suppress people in a textbook example of the appeal to motive.

Similarly, when pointing out that Garrison mis-

identifies three of the Rhetoric Program's five major errors, Nace accuses him of having a "preference to mislead *The Tiger's* readers rather than forgive others their hastily made mistakes." It is utterly implausible to suggest that Garrison was trying to spread misinformation about the five major errors. I *guarantee* that he has nothing to gain by convincing freshman rhetoric students that poor parallel structure is a major grammatical error.

The letters to the editor written in response to Garrison's editorial do not actually respond to the editorial itself. But don't take my word for it. Let your own judgment be the final court of appeal. Read the articles, and see if the letters to the editor address the problems identified with the article.

I am not endorsing the content of Garrison's article, and I am not attacking it. The decision to print the piece was fully mine, and just as I was disappointed to hear that my actions had hurt people, so was I disappointed to see that several people chose to respond to them by lambasting a student publicly.

Imagine, for a moment, that a student published an explicitly misogynistic diatribe in support of some fascist political cause. Imagine then that a member of the faculty wrote a response decrying that person

as a misogynist; it is hard to see how such a response would be effective at changing the attitude of that student—or anyone *else* with misogynistic tendencies, for that matter.

On a college campus, positive change does not come through intimidation or threat of punishment. It comes through teaching, whether through lecture and discussion in the classroom or through modeling intellectual virtue on the opinion page of *The Tiger*. The language used in last issue's letters to the editor does not ring of teaching; it smacks of admonishment. It smacks of castigation and of reprimand.

One might have expected that those professors who took issue with Garrison's language would not only have sent constructive pieces to *The Tiger* but would *also* have made efforts to get in touch with and explain to him directly what was wrong with his editorial. I have confirmed with Garrison that no such efforts were made.

The standard toward which I exhort the community is not one predicated on arbitrary and conventional rules of language or grammar but one predicated on authenticity and intellectual charity. My exhortation is that we engage those with whom we disagree for what they said and not for what we wish they had said.



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